
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7056

AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARM PERMITS AND TRANSFERS.

SUMMARY

This bill expands whose firearms are exempt from being counted toward the limits in existing law on the number of pistols and revolvers (i.e. handguns) someone can purchase at retail in a 30-day period, which are generally six for certain firearms instructors and three for everyone else without an exemption. The bill exempts any firearm transferred to a defense contractor, nuclear-powered submarine manufacturer, aerospace company, or nuclear power generating facility through an agreement with a federal agency or applicable federal regulations for the purpose of training armed security force personnel or providing or maintaining an armed security force (§ 8).

Separately, the bill changes how the general statutes refer to officials responsible for administering various gun laws at the municipal level. Several of these laws currently refer to, all together, the police chief or, where there is no chief, the municipality's chief executive officer (CEO) or the resident state trooper or relevant state police officer designated by the municipality's CEO (§§ 1-3, 8, 11 & 12). The bill consolidates this series into a single defined term, "local permitting authority," that is used instead. The bill also uses this term to replace a similar series of officials, which effectively empowers, where there is no police chief, the municipality's CEO (or the above designees) instead of the borough's warden or town's first selectman (§§ 8 & 11). Additionally, in statutes that refer to an undefined local authority, the bill instead has them refer to the term (§§ 1, 2 & 4-6).

The bill also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Defense Contractor Definition

By law and under the bill, “defense contractor” is any contractor, subcontractor, manufacturer, or service company that is a party to a defense contract and has agreed to produce or manufacture weapons or defense equipment under it. A “defense contract” is any contract for the production or manufacture of weapons or other defense equipment to be used by the military or naval forces of Connecticut or the U.S.

Related Bill

sHB 6859, § 7, favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, also expands whose firearms are exempt from the handgun purchase limits by exempting any firearm transferred by bequest or intestate succession, or to or from a trust upon the death of a testator or settlor.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)